



Capitol Hill
Ocean Week
FROM NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY FOUNDATION



National
Marine
Sanctuary
Foundation

SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS

Kayages

AND **BREAKTHROUGHS**

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 - THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026 | WASHINGTON, D.C.





About

CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK

Capitol Hill Ocean Week is where our community comes together.

Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) is the nation's premier ocean and Great Lakes policy conference, hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, conservationists, educators, and youth leaders come together to discuss and debate the most significant issues impacting our ocean and Great Lakes, to generate innovative solutions to these challenges and to build networks.

Capitol Hill Ocean Week includes events from June 2nd through 4th, culminating in CHOW Hill Day on Thursday, June 4th. The CHOW Conference is two full days of high-level programming on Tuesday, June 2nd and Wednesday, June 3rd, and the Ocean Awards will occur on the evening of Tuesday, June 2nd for expanded networking opportunities.





Voyages AND BREAKTHROUGHS

Join us in this moment to launch bold breakthroughs, ignite discovery and secure waters for all.

America's history is maritime history. Our nation's story is shaped by the ocean and the Great Lakes – rooted in exploration, innovation, and our evolving commitment to environmental stewardship.

Today, coastal communities are the anchors of America, serving as engines of opportunity and preserving our shared waters. As we sail into the future, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation honors the earliest stewards of our waters and charts the course for the next generation of wavemakers.

By showcasing the cutting-edge advancements and emerging leaders that are shaping the future of ocean stewardship, CHOW 2026 spotlights transformative change across science, culture and heritage, resiliency, and innovation. Capitol Hill Ocean Week celebrates 25 years as the Nation celebrates its 250th anniversary.

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is proud to partner with the National Maritime Historical Society on the CHOW 2026 Program.





The

OCEAN Awards

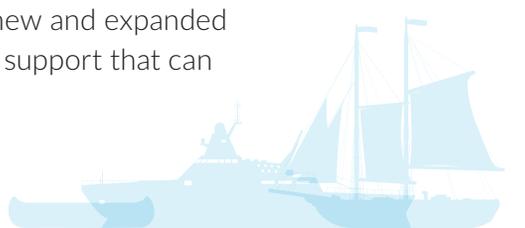
OCEAN AWARDS

June 2, 2026

The Ocean Awards creates an energizing and fun soiree for meeting, mingling, and celebrating champions of our ocean. The reception is the place to network with colleagues old and new, luminaries in the ocean community, and the business leaders and policymakers that are invested in our waters.

This DC staple event is a fantastic opportunity to form partnerships with shared missions, host clients, gather with friends, broaden networks, enjoy sustainable US seafood and most importantly – celebrate our collective commitment to improving the health of our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes and the communities that depend upon them.

As a sponsor, you and your guests will enjoy an unforgettable experience while supporting the biggest possible future for our blue planet. And, we're proud to offer new and expanded opportunities for partnership, visibility, and support that can be added to your sponsorship level.



2025 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



About

PARTNERING WITH US AT CHOW

Sponsors provide the backbone for the CHOW experience, enabling us to offer high-quality programming free of charge to participants, and elevate speakers who are willing to share their experiences, knowledge, time, and ideas with our community.

With its free, hybrid experience, CHOW is available and accessible to thousands of first-time and returning participants both in-person in Washington D.C. and virtually from across the country.

In return for your generous support, the Foundation has a range of benefits available, and we look forward to building a package that meets your organization's needs based on the chart below. The Foundation can also work with your organization to explore additional specialty sponsorship opportunities.



Sponsorship OPPORTUNITIES

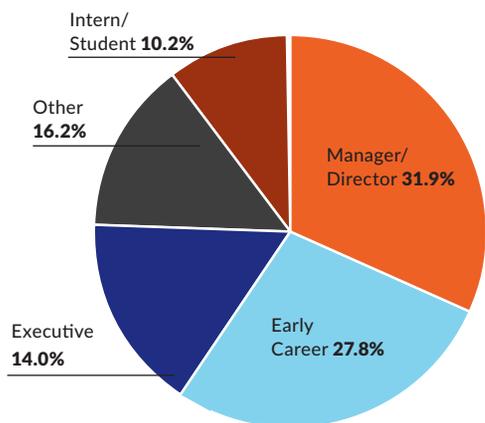
	FRIEND \$5,000	SUPPORTER \$10,000	ADVOCATE \$15,000	CHAMPION \$25,000	PRESENTING \$35,000	PREMIER \$50,000
Unlimited conference registrations	•	•	•	•	•	•
Logo or name recognition on conference website and onsite signage	•	•	•	•	•	•
Complimentary tickets to Awards Reception		2 tickets	4 tickets	6 tickets	8 tickets	10 tickets
Logo or Name recognition on Awards Reception website and onsite signage		•	•	•	•	•
Inclusion in select conference social media and email communications			•	•	•	•
Exhibit Booth during conference (limited availability)			•	•	• (premium space)	• (premium space)
Inclusion in select Awards Reception social media and email communications				•	•	•
Sponsor a Plenary Session including name, logo and opening remarks (limited availability)					•	•
Dedicated conference communication highlighting your organization's partnership					Email & Social Post	Email, Social Post & Remarks
30-sec video shown during conference to live and virtual audiences						•
Recognition in President and CEO Remarks during Awards Reception						•

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPONSORING CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK, please contact Laurie VanBenschoten at lvbenschoten@marinesanctuary.org or (301) 754-6144. Proceeds from your sponsorship benefit the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

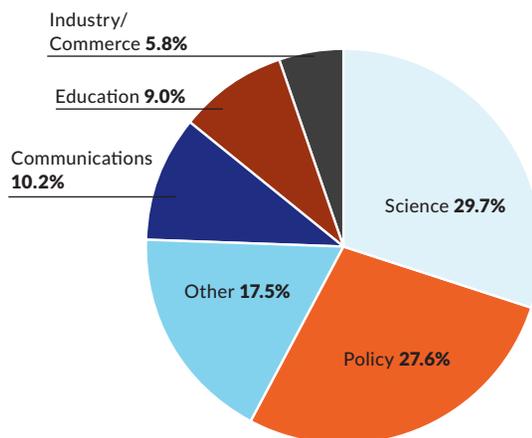


2025 DEMOGRAPHICS

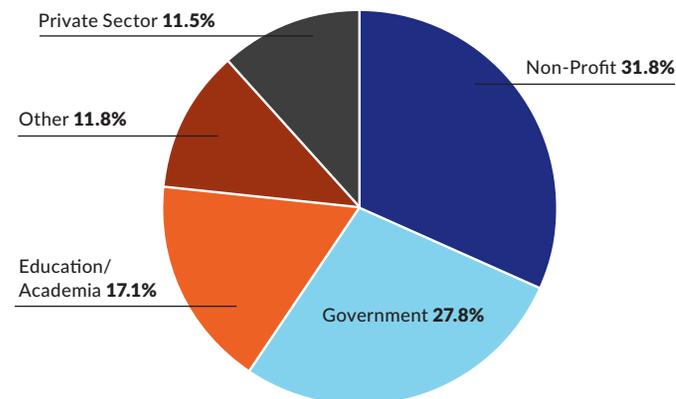
Job Level (all attendees)



Professional Expertise (all attendees)



Industry Type (all attendees)



In 2025, more than **2,000 people registered** for Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

650 attended at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC.

Over 1,100 participated in CHOW virtually.

The percentage of **youth and early career attendance** (18-24 years old) has increased from 5.4% in 2022 to **27.8% in 2025**.



“I LEARNED A TON AND IT WAS AN HONOR TO JOIN ALONGSIDE THE OTHER PANELISTS, INCLUDING DAWN, WHO WAS IN THE ASTRONAUT FINALS WITH ME! EVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND COURAGE.”

- DR. VED CHIRAYATH, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



“THE SESSIONS ON NEAH BAY... REALLY BROUGHT HOME WHAT PROTECTING OUR WATERS AND SERVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IS ALL ABOUT.”

CHOW 2025 PARTICIPANT

“WE ALL LEFT INSPIRED AND EVEN MORE MOTIVATED (IF THAT’S POSSIBLE).”

JIM RITTERHOFF, FORCE BLUE INC.

For more information about sponsoring Capitol Hill Ocean Week, please contact Laurie VanBenschoten at lvanschoten@marinesanctuary.org or (301) 754-6144.

Proceeds from your sponsorship benefit the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Your contribution may be tax-deductible. For more information, please consult with a tax professional. All sales are final, and contributions, purchases, tickets, and sponsorships are non-refundable. If CHOW moves entirely to a virtual platform due to external circumstances, the Foundation will work with you to ensure that we meet your sponsor benefit needs. In the event of cancellation, your purchase becomes a tax-deductible gift.

2026 CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK

SPONSORSHIP PLEDGE FORM



DATE: _____

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

Please invoice me for payment.

PLEASE SELECT YOUR LEVEL.

- \$5,000 Friend
- \$10,000 Supporter
- \$15,000 Advocate
- \$25,000 Champion
- \$35,000 Presenting
- \$50,000 Premier

www.capitolhilloceanweek.org | Capitol Hill Ocean Week, June 2-4, 2026 | For more information, or to return this form, contact Laurie VanBenschoten at lvanbenschoten@marinesanctuary.org or (301) 754-6144. Checks can be made payable to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and mailed to 8455 Colesville Rd. Ste. 1275 | Silver Spring, MD 20910. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, EIN #94-3370994

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION

8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1275, Silver Spring, MD 20910 | 301.608.3040 | marinesanctuary.org

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